

ed island, Pulo Panjang, which apart from it seemed to possess only dark-bellied forms. There can be no question of this specimen having come from a tame or captive stock. Darwin, who visited the atoll in 1836, does not report the presence of rats on this island, which is nearly 5 miles long, but the animals may be descended from the ship rats of the London brig *Sir Francis Nicholas Burton* which was wrecked there ten years earlier. Popularly the rats on this part of the atoll are thought to have come from the American vessel *Robert Portner* which went ashore on one of the other islets in 1878.

RAFFLES MUSEUM,
SINGAPORE,
20th February, 1950.

C. A. GIBSON-HILL

6. THE BURMESE WILD DOG

At page 651 of Vol. 48, No. 4, in his interesting 'Jungle Memories', Lt.-Col. Phythian-Adams asks, 'Is there a separate grey species of wild dog in Burma?' and mentions my statement in the article 'The Indian Wild Dog' (Vol. 41, p. 695) that 'no material is as yet available to establish the identity of the wild dogs of Burma.' That remark as to identity was in connexion with the scientific classification by Pocock of the several races of wild dog throughout India and Burma.

In the Fauna of British India—Mammalia, Vol. II, published on 15th September 1941 (after my article was written and published) Pocock, having seen some new material from Burma, gave the name *Cuon alpinus adustus*, subsp. nov., to the wild dog of Upper Burma, and the name *Cuon alpinus infuscus* Pocock to the race found in Tenasserim and Malaya. It would seem that yet more material is required from the whole of Burma and south to Malaya. The wild dog of Peninsular India is now named *Cuon alpinus dukhunensis* Sykes.

In 'A Game Book for Burma and Adjoining Territories' (1933) E. H. Peacock has a chapter on the Wild Dog (*Cuon* sp.) and says, 'There are said to be two species of wild dog in Burma: *C. dukhunensis* (the Indian wild dog) and *C. rutilans* (the Malay wild dog). I have never seen the former in Burma, but have seen and shot the latter on a number of occasions. The Malay wild dog resembles a large jackal more nearly than it does either dog or wolf. The general coloration is bright red with a black or dark brown tail and smoky-brown or black muzzle. It is smaller and more lightly built than the Indian wild dog and of a brighter red coloration.' He makes no mention of a grey dog, and remarks as to the jackal in Burma 'the colour of the coat varies from yellow or reddish-yellow to blue-grey.'

BANGALORE,
21st February, 1950.

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